



Sulphur Springs Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

The path to ... **a healthier planet.**




SUN  **Watts**

The path to a cleaner, healthier environment starts with SunWatts™, a program designed to help Sulphur Springs Valley Electric Cooperative members take part in renewable electric generation technologies.



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Table of Contents

What is SunWatts?	3
Frequently Asked Questions	4
SunWatts Contribution Program	5
SunWatts Incentive Program	6
Incentive Program System Qualifications	7
Incentive Program Enrollment Form	8

What is ...



Care of our environment is a growing concern among electric cooperative customers. Many folks want a 'green' alternative for their energy needs. That's where the SunWatts™ program comes in.

SunWatts, developed by SSVEC and Arizona's Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives, offers you a way to take part in the exciting and growing renewable and photovoltaic (solar) movement in Arizona.

The SunWatts program has two parts:

- **The SunWatts Contribution Program**
- **The SunWatts Incentive Program**

Each of these programs is discussed in more detail in this handbook. You'll also find sign-up forms as well as the necessary NEC code and IEEE Standards information.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact SSVEC at:

Business:

David Bane, (520) 515-3472

Agriculture:

Jack Crask, (520) 384-5515

Residential:

Albert Gomez, (520) 515-3473

LaDonna Burgess, (520) 384-5511



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Frequently Asked Questions

1.) What is SunWatts™?

SunWatts™ is SSVEC and the Arizona's Touchstone Energy Cooperatives' name for its renewable energy programs. These programs include the Contribution Program, the Incentive Program and the Large-Scale Renewable Generation Program.

2.) Where does the SunWatts green power come from?

Renewable energy comes from many different sources including photovoltaic (solar) systems, wind and biomass.

3.) How can I enroll in this program?

Residential and small business customers can choose from two different programs, the Contribution Program or the Incentive Program.

The Contribution Program lets you contribute extra dollars on your bill each month. These dollars will be used for the installation and maintenance of renewable generation projects across Arizona.

The Rebate Program helps you defray the cost of installing a qualifying photovoltaic system in your home or business.

After you've decided what works best for you, just fill out the proper enrollment form, which you can get from SSVEC.

4.) I'm enrolled in the SunWatts Contribution Program. How will I know that green power is actually being provided to my home?

The renewable energy that you're purchasing goes directly into our electric system and displaces our fossil fuel-fired generation.

Your investment in renewable energy helps drive environmental responsibility. All cooperative members benefit when even one member participates in the SunWatts Renewable Energy Program.

5.) How can I get more information about SunWatts?

Call SSVEC and ask to speak with the SunWatts member services representative to request an information packet and the enrollment forms.

6.) Why is SSVEC selling green power?

SSVEC has been a part of our local communities for more than 65 years, shares a commitment to the community and works to protect our environment.

With the SunWatts program, SSVEC members have an alternative to traditional fossil-fuel power sources, something from which we all benefit.

7.) Why does green power cost more than other power?

Renewable energy is still not widely used and is more expensive to produce than traditional sources. As technology improves, use will increase and development costs will be driven down. Thus, access to renewable fuels should become more economically attractive.

8.) Why can't we add batteries to the SunWatts system?


SSVEC wants to keep the program as simple and trouble free as possible for our members. Batteries take up space, contain hazardous chemicals, require continuous maintenance, and contribute toxic materials into the waste stream when they have to be replaced. *If a customer wishes to install batteries in their system, they will not be eligible for a rebate.*

9.) How is this program being funded?

In 2002, pursuant to a ruling by the Arizona Corporation Commission, SSVEC began charging its members an environmental portfolio surcharge. This ranges from a maximum of 35 cents per month for residential members up to \$39.00 per month for our large business and industry customers. The revenue collected from this surcharge is funding the SunWatts program. No other SSVEC funds will be used for the SunWatts program.



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Contribution Program



Ensure A Bright Future for Planet Earth With SunWatts!

Sunshine - it's one of Arizona's most abundant resources. And, with your help, SSVEC is harnessing the sun's enormous power and turning it into clean, green power.

Solar power generators take the sun's rays and turn them into electric energy that can be used for everything from cooling your home in the summertime to keeping you warm in the winter. And by using the sun's resources, we reduce our reliance on fossil fuel-fired electric generation, thus preserving our valuable natural resources.

With the SunWatts™ Contribution Program, you can help to foster this constantly evolving, exciting technology. You choose the amount you wish to contribute, which will appear as a line item on your monthly bill. These extra dollars will go directly to the installation and maintenance of solar-powered and other renewable generation throughout Arizona. **Your contribution is voluntary and you can opt out at any time - just notify SSVEC.**

To take part in the SunWatts program, just fill out the form below and enclose it with your bill or drop it by SSVEC's office. Your enrollment will take effect in your next billing cycle.

YES! I want to enroll in SSVEC's SunWatts Contribution Program! By enrolling, I will make a monthly contribution to SSVEC's green energy programs.

Please print:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: (____) _____

Account Number: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Amount I wish to contribute each month (please check ONE):

- | | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$2.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$7.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$3.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$8.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$4.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$9.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$5.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$10.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$6.00 | |

The amount you check will appear as a line item on your bill. Your enrollment will be reflected on your next bill. Contributions are voluntary and you may opt out of the SunWatts Contribution Program at any time. You must notify SSVEC in writing that you wish to opt out. It may take a full billing cycle for the change to appear on your bill.

Incentive Program



Solar power generators take the sun's rays and turn them into electric energy that can be used for everything from cooling your home in the summertime to keeping you warm in the winter. And by using the sun's resources, we reduce our reliance on fossil fuel-fired electric generation, thus preserving our valuable

natural resources.

With the SunWatts™ Incentive Program, you can be on the cutting edge of this exciting technology! SSVEC will pay you **\$4 per installed watt** — up to 2,000 watts for individual residential units, or up to 5,000 watts for small business/commercial units (up to 50% of the total cost of the unit, whichever is lower).

The program is easy!

(1) You select and have installed a qualifying solar electric system in your home or business. This home or business must be served by SSVEC. Furthermore, this system must meet all qualifications listed in the following "Qualifications" section. The system must be installed by a contractor with an electrical license.

(2) You must use a licensed contractor, from the list provided by SSVEC, to install the solar electric system that meets IEEE standards, the NEC code, and the cooperative's interconnect standards. The approved licensed contractor must also certify the solar array's rated output in terms of wattage. **The rebate amount you receive is dependent on the rated output.**

(3) You sign an agreement assigning rights to the electrical output and all associated environmental credits to the co-op. Since the co-op is paying up to half the cost of the unit, the co-op **will not** buy any electric generation output from the unit.

(4) You, the owner of the system, are responsible for arranging for and payment of annual service inspections and normal system repairs to the unit, including labor.

(5) In order to receive the rebate, you must submit the following to your electric co-op:

- Certification from a SSVEC representative** that the installed unit meets the qualifications as set out in the Incentive Program Systems Qualifications page.
- Proof of the solar array's rated output certified by the licensed contractor. Failure to have an approved licensed contractor perform the installation and certify the system's output will result in refusal of the rebate.
- A signed Incentive Program Enrollment Form. **Keep a copy for your records.**

(6) Once this proof is submitted, please allow eight weeks for your rebate to be processed.

(7) A more in-depth interconnection standards requirements is contained in this packet.

Documents should be submitted to:

SSVEC - SunWatts - MEA
311 E. Wilcox Drive
Sierra Vista, AZ 85635

** Should you elect to have a SSVEC representative do the testing and certification of your system, you will be responsible for any trip charges as billed by SSVEC.

Incentive Program System Qualifications

All customer solar electric generating systems must meet the following system and installation requirements to be connected to the electric distribution cooperative system:

1. The Customer System components must be certified as meeting the requirements of IEEE-929 - Recommended Practice for Utility Interface of Photovoltaic Systems.
2. The Customer System Components must be certified as meeting the requirements of UL-1741 - Power Conditioning Units for use in Residential Photovoltaic Power and be covered by a non-prorated manufacturers warranty of at least two years.
3. The Customer System design and installation must meet all requirements of the latest edition of the National Electrical Code (NEC), including Article 690 and all grounding, conductor, raceway, overcurrent protection, disconnect and labeling requirements.
4. The Customer System and installation must meet the requirements of all federal, state and local building codes and have been successfully inspected by the building official having jurisdiction. To do so, the installation must be completed in accordance with the requirements of the latest edition of the NEC in effect in the jurisdiction where the installation is being complete, including, without limitation, Sections 200-6, 210-6, 230-70, 240-3, 250-26, 250-50, 250-122, all of Article 690 pertaining to Solar Photovoltaic Systems, thereof, all as amended and superceded.
5. The Customer System must meet cooperative and Arizona Corporation Commission interconnection requirements for self-generation equipment.
6. The Customer System installation must meet the cooperative Service Requirements as follows:

"An AC disconnect means shall be provided on all ungrounded AC conductors and shall consist of a lockable gang-operated disconnect clearly indicating open or closed. The switch shall be visually inspected to determine that the switch is open. The switch shall be clearly labeled stating "DG Service Disconnect."
7. All Customer System installations must be completed in a professional, workmanlike and safe manner.
8. A licensed contractor, from the approved list provided by SSVEC, must be used. This list is contained in the packet. **THERE ARE NO EXCEPTIONS.**



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Incentive Program Enrollment Form

By signing below, I am assigning my rights to the electrical output of the unit and all associated environmental credits to SSVEC and its generation cooperative. ***Further, I understand the cooperative will not buy from me any electric power generated by the solar/photovoltaic unit.*** Instead, this generation will be used solely to offset my regular electric energy usage provided by the cooperative. I further agree that any generation above and beyond this amount will flow through to the electric grid at no charge.

I understand that as the owner of the equipment, I am fully responsible for the unit's operation and safety. I will arrange and pay for annual service inspections as well as normal system maintenance and repairs to the unit, including labor.

I also agree to allow the distribution cooperative to inspect my unit after installation to ensure it meets requirements set forth in the SunWatts Incentive Program Systems Qualifications documentation. I agree that SSVEC and its generation cooperative, AEPCO, are not in any way responsible for the unit, its safety, operation, insurance or repair.

I, _____(print name), hereby certify that I have read and reviewed the above Incentive Program System Qualifications. I understand that I am solely responsible for ensuring that these qualifications are met and maintained for the life of my electric generating system and I am responsible for any consequences if they are not met. I understand they are needed for safe operation of my and SSVEC's electrical system. I also understand if they are not met, I am not eligible for any rebate from SSVEC and/or AEPCO.

DATED _____

SIGNED _____

SPOUSE _____

Please print:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: (____) _____

Account Number: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Processing of the rebate is contingent on the accurate certification/testing of the unit. Rebate processing may take up to eight weeks. SSVEC reserves the right to refuse payment of a rebate based on the following reasons, including but not limited to: failure to meet the qualifications as set forth in the SunWatts Incentive Program System Qualifications documentation, incomplete enrollment packets, insufficient system testing or certification, installation and/or testing/certification by an unlicensed electrician.